the Anti-Dumping Agreement, recommendations have been agreed to in respect of the following two Implementation Issues relating to the Anti-Dumping Agreement: (a) time frame for considering the volume of dumped imports during anti-dumping investigation and (b) making the annual review of operation and implementation of the Anti-Dumping Agreement more meaningful.

US proposal in WTO for reduction of import duties by member countries

2499. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that American representatives have recently brought a proposal in World Trade Organisation to the effect that Member countries should reduce import duties in their respective countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a huge difference in rates of import duties in Member countries; and

(d) if so, what are the minimum and maximum rates, alongwith the names of such countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Negotiations on further commitments on import tariffs are underway in the WTO in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration. Several WTO Members, including the US, have submitted proposals on modalities for these negotiations. The US in its proposal for non-agricultural products has suggested elimination of customs duties by all WTO members to be achieved by 2015. This is proposed to be done in two phases which *inter alia* require tariffs on all non-agricultural products to be brought down to below 8% by 2010. In the second phase lasting from 2010 to 2015 all remaining non-zero tariffs have been proposed to be brought down to zero. For agricultural products,

the US has proposed a formula based reduction method using which the customs duties in no WTO member would be higher than 25% t the end of a five year period.

India is not in favour of proposals requiring drastic reductions in the tariff binding levels of developing countries or seeking the elimination of all tariffs. India has also submitted proposals for these negotiations, which *inter alia* call for a higher rate of tariff reduction by developed countries and elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalation in products of export interest to developing countries.

(c) and (d) The import duty rates and the tariff range prevalent in different countries are different. These are normally based on their levels of development, the needs of their domestic industry and agriculture and also their revenue requirements. The minimum duty in most countries is zero per cent while the maximum applied duties in different countries vary.

Appointment of foreigners and NRIs in Indian Companies in SEZs

2500. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions governing appointment of foreigners and NRIs as consultants or employees in Indian companies;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have waived the condition of residence for NRIs appointed as Managing Directors of India companies located in SEZs with leave to draw pay up to Rs. 20,00,000 per month;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the profile of SEZ companies, including PSUs, if any, their average annual turn over, the total outgo foreign exchange on account of pay and perks of foreign/NRI employees during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The procedures as laid down under FEMA, Companies Act or any other relevant law in force with regard to appointment of